

The Pocahontas Times.

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WAYSIDE NOTES.

Paper No. 2.

In the former paper, the dedication of Baxter meeting house was described. In this paper something will be written about the organization of the Baxter church. About a year after the dedication, by the order of Greenbrier Presbytery, Baxter church was organized with six members detached from Liberty church. This Presbyterian church was discharged by the Rev. J. C. Barr, Robert D. McCutcheon and Robert Curry were the ruling elders chosen and ordained August 21st, 1859, and with fourteen others for charter members thereupon Baxter church became an organized congregation in connection with Greenbrier Presbytery. Mrs. Matilda Craig was one of these original members. Her daughter, Mrs. Caroline Warwick, was one also. Mrs. Craig's oldest son, Rev. John Newton Craig, D. D., became one of the most prominent ministers of his time in the Southern Presbyterian Assembly as Secretary of Home Missions. He died October 27, 1900, on the platform of the Virginia synod at Newport News, in the act of concluding a fervent home mission appeal. His last words being, "My time is up. I must quit." Rev. A. H. Hamilton, one of the pastors of Baxter church, was the first to reach and assist the falling dying minister. The scene was one of the most thrilling that has ever occurred at a meeting of synod, so far as remembered. Upon Dr. Barr's re-

turn to Philadelphia, in 1859. His home was in the bounds of Baxter church at Mr. B. D. McCutcheon's residence and thus he shared with his people of the Baxter, Liberty, and Pisgah churches, the privations and exciting vicissitudes of the wartimes between the states that soon came on. In 1867 he accepted calls to Windy Cove and Warm Springs churches in Lexington Presbytery. As an illustration of what he endured during his ministry at Baxter church, notice the following incident. In 1864 while pastor Kennedy was on his way to meet appointments in Highland county, he was surprised and arrested near Monterey. Reuben, a colored man belonging to the late Hon. Wm. Weir Fleming, of Monterey, Va., begged for the young preacher's release. He most emphatically assured the Federal officer "that the little man could not possibly do them any harm, for all the sense he had anyhow was just sense enough to preach a little." It looked at first as if the sympathetic negro might succeed, but when it was found out this preacher was a native of Pennsylvania it was all to no purpose. The officer seemed impressed with the conviction, and a patriotic sense of duty, an object lesson was needed. So to make treason duly odious the young preacher was marched afoot to McDowell, nine miles eastward, thence northward fifteen or twenty miles to Crabbottom Presbyterian church to be utilized for barracks for some days. He marched afoot, waded the swollen streams, the water being of icy coolness. During the halt at the church barracks, a Sabbath intervened, and the captive preacher was importuned to hold religious services. He declined for the reason that such was the frame of his mind that he felt totally impressed to say or even pray for anything that might be acceptable to his audience. After a season of badgering admonition the docile prisoner was permitted to return homeward solitary

and alone, and to resume his pastoral duties without horse, bridle, saddle, and life bags, sermons or change of raiment, and thus realized the odiousness of treason. During the interim between 1867-74, the Rev. Dr. D. S. Sydenstricker, Mitchell Dierdanz, and James H. Lott were among the supplies for brief periods. In 1874 Rev. Augustus Houston Hamilton took charge of Baxter church along with Liberty and Hattersville and served two years. He resigned this charge to accept a call to Mt. Carmel church, Lexington Presbytery, Rockbridge county. His success as pastor, home mission, promoter, and religious educator has given him quite a reputation in the synod of Virginia. Pastor Hamilton was succeeded by Rev. James H. McCowan in 1877, and he served the churches until 1886, when he retired on account of broken health. Should his ministerial friends and others visit New Market charge near Lexington, Va., as I did eight years ago, they will hear many nice things said about B. D. McCowan's usefulness as Sabbath school promoter, Bible Class Teacher, and occasional pulpit supply, that have characterized the years of his invalidism. Rev. J. H. McCowan was succeeded by the writer of these notes in a service of three or four years. My testimony is such that no minister ought to wish for better or more loyal friends than the membership of Baxter church.

Nevertheless I had an experience here similar to the experience I have found everywhere I have served in the gospel ministry from April 1857 to August 1908, in the two Virginias. You will notice I am celebrating my personal semi centennial as well as that of Baxter church, twenty eight years of my service in Lexington Presbytery and twenty three in Greenbrier Presbytery. Everywhere I have served I have found an experience that makes the reading and study of certain scriptures have a rather depressing influence upon my mind. To make my meaning plain I will repeat this by way of explanation from 1st Corinthians 1:28. "Now I beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (opinion). For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe that there are contentions among you. Now this I say (or mean) that every one of you saith I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized in the name of Paul? Now when I come to reflect that victory never perches on the standards of a divided army, the emphatic question will not down what can there be coming to the Sacramental Host if things continue to be as I have experienced them everywhere I have been posted for service. I have been compelled with sadness of heart to feel that it requires a faith that pries too far for me into the future to discern any triumph that is nigh or may be brought near in such premises. In the vacation of 1890 seminary John Valandingham McCa'l, of Texas, occupied this church and points adjacent. He was strenuous and worked with extraordinary enthusiasm and persistent endeavor. He loved to sing and his stentorian voice would make the forests resound as he journeyed from appointment to appointment. When met and accosted, "Why Brother McCa'l you seem merry)

I am and don't you forget it. I am the child of a King," and spurring his horse would lope away singing as follows: "I'm the child of a King, The child of a King; With Jesus my Saviour, I'm the child of a King." Those familiar with the religious papers have noticed how Mr. McCall makes things restless in the Texas Synod, in his earnest adherence to the faith delivered to the saints once for all as he is given to see it.

W. T. P.
An Opinion of the Attorney General as to the Registration of Voters.
I have carefully examined the registration law, chapter 19, Acts of the Legislature, Extraordinary Session, and find no provision therein requiring the voter to appear in person before the Registrar in order to have his name listed as a voter. I am therefore of the opinion that it will satisfy such Registrar that the voter is a legally qualified voter in his precinct, ought to be sufficient; but in the event there was objection to the registering of any voter and there was any doubt in the mind of the Registrar as to the qualification of the voter, I am of the opinion it would be wise to thoroughly examine the voter, asking all questions required in said chapter.
Very truly yours,
(Signed) WM. G. CONLEY,
Attorney General.

Hinton, West Virginia,
September 8, 1908.
I have determined to undertake to write a history of the lower New River and Greenbrier Valley settlements, from the early pioneer days down to the present, including the territory west of Marlinton. Johnston's excellent History of the Middle New River Settlements covers the territory east. This history will be intended to cover the large territory west of the Alleghenies to the Kanawha, not including the Pocahontas region of which Dr Price has written a most valuable history. It will be intended to cover Greenbrier, Monroe Summers, Fayette, Raleigh and Wyoming; the latter not being strictly in the general scheme, but includes a territory rich in historical traditions which should be preserved to posterity.
I take this method of requesting that all persons who feel an interest in the preservation of the history of the region named, to the future, will aid me by securing and sending me data of any historical and traditional incidents; also biographical data. I shall thank all who aid me in securing reliable facts. Write me the outlines and I will prepare for publication.
Respectfully,
JAS. H. MILLER.

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The recent big show at Marlinton presented a very suggestive street parade. Those of our esteemed readers who may have been present have it in their power to say that they have seen a mass of the largest elephants known to be in the world. This is so-called King of the Circus crowd of the circus or circus shows have had in their power to say, hitherto the future of the animated scene that presented itself in the river view of the river was the numerous attendances of the wives and daughters of the Pocahontas families. Previous to seeing what was such a evidence, I would have thought it impossible for Pocahontas county to present such a display of glorious womanhood, so attractive in form, feature and attire. Without their presence there would have been no show worth speaking of as I consider matters of current interest and importance. These persons have lived at a time when the prevailing idea seems to have been that the public welfare, so far as the civil government is concerned, is best promoted by legislating so as to make the well-to-do prosperous then their prosperity will leak through on those below. From appearances at Marlinton on show day it looks as if there had been a goodly prosperity leakage on the masses of our great county. The

sections of the State. Ohio and Kanawha counties lead with five each. Upshur comes next with twenty-three. The following are the names of those who were present: Major, Minor, Mason, Cabell, and Monongalia had two each and there was one from each of the counties of Raleigh, Preston, Hancock, Lincoln, Boone, Hampshire, Pocahontas, Jefferson, Greenbrier, Monroe, Barbour, Marshall, Lewis, Randolph, and Jackson. Twenty-three of these presiding officers are living and twenty-one are dead. Politically they are divided as follows: Democrat, 23; Republicans, 21.
Ten men have occupied the clerkship of the Senate and an equal number that of the House. W. E. R. Byrne is the only man who served in both clerkships. Dan D. Johnson is the only presiding officer who also served in the capacity of clerk.
From '63 to '70 the Legislature sat in Wheeling; from '71 to '75 at Charleston; from '77 to '85 again at Wheeling and since '87 at Charleston.
In 1899 the initials of the President and the Speaker were the same, and the name of each had an equal number of letters, but the politics of the two gentlemen are not so similar.
Executor's Notice
All persons having accounts against the estate of George Baxter, deceased, are notified to present the same duly proven to the undersigned executor for payment. Any one indebted to the estate are requested to come forward and settle at once.
Given under my hand this 8th day of August, 1908.
A. O. Baxter
Executor of George Baxter, deceased.

SPRING WHEAT CROP SHOWS AN INCREASE.
Estimated Yield of 200,000,000 Bushels, or 22,000,000 More Than Last Year.
Washington, Sept. 16.—Figures of the Government crop report indicate a total yield of wheat of 200,000,000 bushels, 2,285,897,000 bushels of corn, 825,008,000 bushels of oats, 20,921,000 bushels of rye and 139,000 bushels of barley, and 13,000,000 bushels of sorghum. The total crop of 67,743,000 tons is promised. Good average yields of flaxseed and buckwheat are also indicated by the figures published.
While the crops of wheat and corn and oats are fair, disappointment was expressed at the deterioration reported by the Government in spring wheat and corn. During August corn deteriorated from a condition of 83.5 to 79.4, which reduced into bushels means an indicated loss of 120,000,000 bushels of corn. Spring wheat deteriorated from a condition of 80.7 at the beginning of August to 77.6 on September 1. This decrease in percentage conditions means an indicated reduction in the spring wheat yield of 9,000,000 bushels. The indicated crop of spring wheat is now 240,856,000 bushels. The total yield of wheat amounting to 666,786,000 bushels now indicated, exceeds last year's final yield by 30,000,000 bushels, but falls short of the crop of 1906 by 7,000,000 bushels.

WRIGHT'S MACHINE A REAL WONDER.
Aeroplane Soars Aloft With the Grace of a Bird.
Washington, Sept. 8.—Orville Wright at 6.30 started his aeroplane on what proved to be in many ways the most remarkable public exhibition by a machine of the type ever given in this country. He glided off the starting track and into the air as gracefully as a swan would swim out on a park lake, made five and a half circuits of the cavalry grounds, remained aloft four and a half minutes and came to earth at the entrance of the tent in which the machine started as easily and as gracefully as a bird.
The plane came near the spectators on its rounds—was Glen H. Curtis, inventor and navigator of the June Bug, the most formidable rival of the Wright machine. Curtis made no comment afterward other than to say that it was a splendid feat, but it was plain that he was puzzled and enthused.
For full 200 feet the skids grazed the weeds and grass. The navigator pulled the right lever ever so slightly and the balancing planes were seen to tilt upward. By easy stages, but sailing swiftly, the great machine rose to a height of twenty-five feet. Another pull at the same lever and Wright had it sailing on an even keel.
Approaching the housing tent he guided to the left, circled the lower side of the parade ground, flying close to Arlington Cemetery, and headed for the starting point. At times he sailed as high as fifty feet and as low as twenty-five. The wobbling which he spoke of afterward was not perceptible to the naked eye.
Lieut. Lahm and Major Squires, in charge of the trials, had given orders that the crowd should be kept far back from the parade ground but when the great airship swept by cavalrymen and artillerymen had to battle with 500 enthusiasts.
BROTHERS REUNITED AFTER 45 YEARS.
Jacob Gould of Aberdeen, Wash., and T. B. Gould, His Brother, Meet.
Middletown, N. Y., Sept. 16.—After forty-five years, Jacob Gould of Aberdeen, Wash., and Thomas B. Gould, formerly chief of police of this city, have been reunited at the home of the latter here.
The brothers had not seen each other since 1863, and until a short time ago, each had supposed the other dead.
Through seeing each other's name in the newspapers the brother learned of the addresses, a correspondence followed and a joyous reunion is the result.
THE SULTAN YIELDS.
Sultan of Turkey Will Thus Guarantee the New Loans.
Constantinople, Turkey, Sept. 10.—The newspaper organ of the Young Turkey Committee states that the Sultan has announced his intention to surrender the Crown domains, yielding a yearly revenue of \$3,900,000, as a guarantee for the forthcoming loans for the treasury and civil list.
Danced Himself to Death.
Pittsburg, Sept. 8.—Albert Hulton, a young mulatto, danced himself to death. He paid the operator of a hurdy-gurdy, to which he danced, and a crowd that gathered continued the payments. The police finally intervened, and Hulton retired to his room, where he died from heart disease, due to over-exertion.

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